

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for managing on-network data storage using a communication network. Requests for data are received within an intermediary server from a plurality of external client applications coupled to the network. Units of data are stored in one or more data storage devices accessible to the intermediary server. Each storage request is associated with a token representing the request. The token is sent to a storage management server coupled to the network and having an interface for communicating with the intermediary server. The storage management server returns specific location information corresponding to the request associated with the received token. The intermediary server accesses the data storage mechanism using the specific location information to retrieve data at the specific location. The retrieved data is delivered to the client application that generated the request.